



A/54/771
S/2000/162
29 February 2000

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-fifth year

I have the honour to invite your attention to the gruesome massacre of 14 innocent civilians, including men, women and children, in the Kotli sector of Azad Jammu and Kashmir by Indian security forces on the night between 24 and 25 February 2000.

The assailants came from across the line of control from Indian-occupied Kashmir. They were clad in military uniforms and were armed with small weapons and hand grenades. They slit the throats of inmates of a house. They also took away with them heads of three bodies. This gruesome incident has revived the memories of a similar brutal act committed by Indian soldiers in Bandala, Azad Jammu and Kashmir in April 1998.

This latest act of State terrorism by India comes in the wake of belligerent and provocative statements by the Indian leadership. Taken together they contribute further to the vitiation of the tense security situation in the region. They form part of a pattern of intensified Indian hostility towards Pakistan aimed at pressurizing Pakistan into compromising on its principled stand on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

In spite of these aggressive Indian actions, the Government of Pakistan has maintained a policy of restraint and measured response. Pakistan remains committed to a resolution of the core dispute of Jammu and Kashmir through peaceful means in accordance with the wishes of the Kashmiri people.

The international community must urge India to desist from such provocative acts that could lead to the further escalation of existing tension in the region.

I would like to request that the present letter be circulated as a document of the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly under agenda items 10, 115 and 116, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Alamgir BABAR
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
